



REPORT TO

SPECIAL BOARD

PROTOCOL FOR DEBATE

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.”
2 Timothy 3:16

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Paul Matthews, General Legal Counsel		

INFORMATION REPORT

Vision:

At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.

Mission:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community rooted in the love of Christ. We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge and to lead lives of faith, hope and charity



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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A review of the By-Laws of Toronto District School Board (“TDSB”), York Catholic District School Board (“YCDSB”), Halton Catholic District School Board (“HCDSB”), and Toronto City Council shows that the protocol debate rules in those institutions are very similar to the current protocol debate rules in Article 12 of TCDSB’s current and proposed operating By-Laws.

B. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board of Trustees with information about the rules in place for boardroom/council debate at TDSB, YCDSB, HCDSB, and Toronto City Council.

C. BACKGROUND

This information is provided at the request of the By-Laws Committee.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. The Board’s current and proposed protocol debate, as described in Article 12, provides as follows:

12.5 Time Limit on Speakers

No member shall speak more than once or longer than five (5) minutes on the same motion without the leave of the Meeting, except that the mover of the main motion may, subject to the provisions of Section 11.5 and Section 12.6, have an additional three (3) minutes to reply, provided, however, that a member’s time limit shall not include time expended in staff responses and/or procedural discussions.

12.6 Time Limit on Debate

12.6.1 No main motion, including subsidiary motions (if any) that are applied to it, and points of information and answers related to any such main or subsidiary motions (if any), shall be debated for longer than thirty (30)

minutes after it has been put, seconded, and accepted by the Chair of the Board of Trustees, provided, however, that upon a motion (which shall not be debatable) passed by the Board of Trustees, such time limit may be extended for not more than a further fifteen (15) minutes;

12.6.2 Provided further that, although there may be only one fifteen (15) minute extension in effect at any time, there shall be no limit on the number of times that successive motions may be made to extend such time limit.

2. See “Protocol for Debate: Procedures at Ontario School Boards and City of Toronto”, attached hereto at Appendix “A”.
3. Upon review and comparison, Article 12 of the TCDSB’s current and proposed operating By-Laws is aligned with the protocol debate rules utilized by TDSB, YCDSB, HCDSB, and Toronto City Council.

E. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the consideration of the Board.

Protocol For Debate:

Procedures at Ontario School Boards and City of Toronto

TDSB:

34.7 A member may speak only once to each motion.

34.8 A member may speak for up to five minutes to a motion.

34.9 The member who moved the main motion, but not of an amendment, may speak a second time for up to three minutes to close the debate.

34.10 The Chair shall not move or speak to a motion, but may pass the Chair to another member and request to be recognized for either purpose.

34.11 After the member who moved the main motion has spoken to close debate, no further debate shall be in order and the motion shall be put to a vote.

34.12 No member shall speak to a motion after the vote on that motion has commenced.

34.13 At both Committee and Committee of the Whole, speaking time shall be limited to a maximum of five minutes, each time the member has the floor.

YCDSB:

Note: there is no mention of any specific time limits

6.0 Rules of Order:

In all cases not provided for by this By-Law, the rules and practices of Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern as far as applicable at meetings of the Board and committees.

6.1 Protocol for Debate:

6.1.4 Interruption of Speaker by Another Member

No member who does not have the floor shall interrupt a Member who does have the floor except:

(e) on a motion to extend the time limit; and

HCDSB:

- 10.3 Open and Close Debate on Main Motion** The mover of a duly seconded motion will open and close debate on the motion. The mover may open debate for a time limit of five minutes and close debate for a period of up to three minutes. All other members may only speak once to the motion for a period of three minutes. No member shall speak longer than three minutes to a motion without leave of the Chair. This does not prohibit a member from raising a point of privilege, a point of order, or a point of clarification.

Toronto Municipal Code
Chapter 27, Council Procedures

ARTICLE VII
Council Meeting's Agenda

§ 27-55. Introduction of committee report by committee Chair.

A. Chair's motion to introduce and speak about a committee report.

A committee Chair or, if he or she is absent, the committee Vice Chair, makes a motion to introduce the report from his or her committee, and may speak for up to five minutes on this motion.

ARTICLE IX
Motions

§ 27-77. Motion to defer.

E. Time limits for motion to defer.

Members may speak about a motion to defer or question the mover about a motion to defer for up to two minutes.

G. Questioning of member moving amendments to motion to defer.

A member may question a member amending a motion to defer for up to two minutes.

§ 27-78. Motion to refer.

F. Time limits for a motion to refer.

Members may speak about a motion to refer or question about a motion to refer for up to two minutes.

H. Questioning of member moving amendments to motion to refer.

A member may question a member amending a motion to refer for up to two minutes.

ARTICLE XI

Rules of Debate for Council

§ 27-89. Questioning.

D. Time for questions and answers to Chairs and to Officials.

A member's questions asked under Subsections B and C, and their answers, may not exceed a total of five minutes on any matter.

E. Timing and time limits for questions to the Mayor.

(2) A member's questions and the Mayor's answers to them may not exceed a total of five minutes on any matter.

G. Conditions for questioning the previous speaker.

A member may ask questions of the previous speaker only:

- (1) If the previous speaker made a motion; and
- (2) To clarify the motion made by the previous speaker.

H. Time for questions and answers of previous speaker.

A member's questions asked under Subsection G, and the answers to them, may not exceed a total of three minutes.

§ 27-92. Rules for speaking.

A. Member may speak once on a matter.

Members may speak only once on a matter during debate of the matter.

B. Five-minute time limit for speakers and possible extension.

A member may speak on a matter for up to five minutes, but Council may consent to extend that time for up to two more minutes for the Chair of the committee that submitted the matter to Council and for the ward councillor on a matter pertaining to a particular ward as opposed to a city-wide matter. [**Amended 2012-10-04 by By-law No. 1303-2012**]